

Sunshine Baskets for 12/23/07

Frankie Wilson, Frances Anderson, Dean Wilson, Sandy Jo Collier, Pauline Whitaker, Jo Ann Carver

Happy Birthday to...

Jacob Haney (18), Elijah Anderson (21), Ben Young (21)

Happy Anniversary to...

Brandon & Casey Garrison (12/21/2002)

Pantry Items We Need...

Canned Pork. Green Beans. Pineapple Slices

Announcements & Upcoming Events...

Directory Changes: We're putting together a new directory! The dates are as follows: March 7th, 8th, & 10th. If you'd like to have your email or cell phone added, please put it on the paper in the back of the auditorium. If you have any elderly family members who may be sick or shut-in check their info as well.

December 16, 2007: TODAY! Hand out fruit baskets for the 65 & older after morning services.

December 30, 2007: Deadline to sign-up & pay \$20 for Challenge Youth Conference

December 30, 2007: All Male Member Meeting @ 1:30 pm.

December 31, 2007: Youth NYE Party @ the annex; more details to come!

December 31, 2007: Mary Nell Flatt's NYE Party; more details to come!

January 11, 2008: Parents' Date Night 5-10 pm. Flyers are on the back table with more details! ☺

February 16, 2008: Sweethearts' Café

February 22-24, 2008: Challenge Youth Conference in Gatlinburg, TN

June 14, 2008: Golden Years' Banquet

Bulletin Articles: If you'd like to write an article for the inside right page of the bulletin, please do so & give it to Kristina Hammock whenever you can.

Website: We're working on updating our website, & we want YOUR opinions! Please pick up a survey & return it to Chris Mabery or Kristina Hammock as soon as you can!

Privileged To Serve December 23rd

- Ushers Billy Stafford
..... Jeff McDowell
..... Ben Young
..... Mark Collins
Announcements..... John Anderson
Song Leader Roy Young
Scripture Reading Greg Scott
Speaker John Mabery
Opening Prayer..... Neal Chaffin
Closing Prayer Chris Mabery
Oversee Lord's Supper . Greg Scott
Prepare Trays Carl Call
Scripture Reading..... Bobby Haney
Serve *Steve Hensley
..... *Randy Duke
..... *Sjon Gentry
..... Jeremy Kirby
..... David Wilson
..... Russell Wilson
Alternate to Serve..... Roy Smallwood
..... Jimmy Strong
Dismiss Classes Roy Young
Count Contribution Earl Jones
..... Thurel Flatt
..... Roger Robinson
..... Jeremy Mathis
Response Card..... Tyler Meadows
Power Point..... Jonathan Conner

Sunday Night (12/23)

- Speaker Farlin Flatt
Scripture Reading Jonathan Conner
Song Leader Jeremy Kirby
Opening Prayer..... Steve Hensley
Closing Prayer David Wilson
Power Point..... Tyler Trisdale

Wednesday (12/26)

- Song Leader Jerry Young
Invitation..... Ben Crossman
Opening Prayer..... Charles Whitaker
Closing Prayer Mike Martin

*Take to the sick & shut-in. Let Jerry Young know if you can't serve.

Elders:

- Ted Ragland 268.9387
John Mabery 268.0651
Cell: 265.3835

Deacons:

- John Anderson 268.2406
Billy Scott 268.0569
Robert Crabtree 268.4417
Raymond Haney 268.2493
Rellon Burris 268.4738
Carl Call 268.2040
Sjon Gentry 268.3273
Bobby Haney 268.2754
Jerry Young 268.2215

Ministers:

- John Mabery 268.0651
John Anderson 268.2406

To Be Saved, JESUS Said We MUST...

Believe Him (Jn.8:24; Heb.11:6)
Repent of our sins (Lk.13:3, 5)
Confess Christ (Rom.10:9-10)
Be immersed in water for remission of sins (Mk.16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom.6:3-4)

Volume 6

December 16, 2007

Number 46

Simple Rules For Child Rearing

By John Mabery

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. Psa.127:3-4

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. Eph 6:4

A body is formed through the divine law of procreation, but God who forms the spirit within the body (Zech.12:1). The Lord places this living soul into the care of "parents". Parents have the responsibility of preparing this immortal being for their eventual return to God (cf. Ecc.12:7, 13-14). Though every spirit will one day return to God, every spirit will not be prepared to face Him. With two possible destinies before each one of us, parents have the divine charge of training and preparing their own children for an eternal residence in heaven.

Of all your many responsibilities, which is greater than this? During the impressionable years of a child, parents are in control; that will soon pass! There are no guarantees, but it's probable that those truly raised in the Lord will mature and become godly adults. They're only a child once; if we miss this window of opportunity, it will shut and never re-open again. THINK!

Those who track numbers tell us that 60-90% of our children forsake Christ when they reach adulthood. Why? For one thing, there are many forces trying to tear down what parents are trying to build! It wasn't that long ago that I raised children, but it seems to me that it is much harder today. But you can succeed because the Lord will fight for you! Another cause of our dismal drop-out rate is that some parents didn't follow the divine plan for child-rearing. If you're raising children now, take nothing for granted; listen to the Lord. Continued inside...

Center Grove

Church Of Christ

3857 Grundy Quarles Hwy.
Gainesboro, TN. 38562
931.858.7460 or 931.268.0651

Schedule of Services

Sunday: Bible Classes @ 9:00 a.m.
Worship @ 10:00 a.m.
Worship @ 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Bible Classes @ 7:00 p.m.
Our A.M. Service is Televised on Monday on Cable Channel 9 @ 6:00 pm

Radio: "The Lord's Word" on WLIV 920 AM 10:10 a.m. Monday - Saturday
(We broadcast Thursday, Friday and Saturday)

Website: www.centergrovecoc.com

I've never met one person who raised godly children that ever regretted the time and energy spent to do so. The following is a list of helpful hints for child-rearing; the key word is "demonstrate".

(1) DEMONSTRATE The Faith That Saves!

All faith doesn't save! (cf. James 2:24) YOU need to teach your child that God exists, that the Bible is His inspired word, and that Jesus lived, died and was raised on the third day. You *must* teach your child about the exclusive nature of the church Jesus built, true worship, etc. Classes are provided; learn to prove your faith, and then teach your child to prove theirs.

(2) DEMONSTRATE That God Comes First In Your Life!

Words frequently go in one ear and out the other. Action leaves images impressed on the mind! You will influence your child if you practice what you preach.

(3) DEMONSTRATE Unselfish Love In Your Home!

When family members learn to put others first at home, it's easy to carry the same attitude into the church and the community at large.

(4) DEMONSTRATE A Prayerful Disposition!

Develop a prayerful spirit and let your children see you pray often!

(5) DEMONSTRATE A Genuine Love For God's Word! (Study and Teach Your Children)

The Christian religion is a "taught" religion (cf. John 6:45). You can't teach what you don't know! Study, understand, believe and practice the will of God. Make this a priority in your life, not merely something you do once in a while. Make time to teach your children, preferably in a family setting, and do this on a regular basis. (cf. Acts 20:32)

Many parents haven't been able to influence their child like they once hoped. It wasn't due to a lack of *desire* or that they didn't *tell* them what to do. But until our *life* harmonizes with our *words*, we'll most likely have little effect on the thinking of our children.

Ida Thomas	<u>Sick at Home</u>	Bud Coffman
Sandy Haney	Marie Shoemake	Richard Martin
Zella Charles	Bobby Elkins	Katherine Mabery
Dorothy Burris	Mildred Elkins	Beatrice Spurlock
Delenn Strong	Connie Rhodes	Jan Allen
Ozelma Martin	Vickie Wilson	David Wilson
Bessie Young	Jo Ann Ledbetter	Mary Mabery
Bill Wisdom	Roberta Hix	Doretha Crossman
Lillie Goolsby	Stephanie Smith	Mary Lock
Opal Pippin	Glenda Burchett	Kathy Hargis
Ruby Dunn	Harlen Haney	Judy Long
Aline Whitaker	Kalob Robinson	Don Meredith
Jean Haney		Charles Mitchell

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer & supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God," (Phil.4:6)

<u>Area Hospitals:</u>
<u>Cookeville:</u> Kenneth Fox, Shirley Fields
<u>Florida:</u> Bob Radtke
<u>Area Rest Homes:</u>
<u>NHC:</u> Alice Pippin, Joe Anderson, Mary L. Dudney, Beatrice Byers
<u>Mabry:</u> Plytha Petty, Wilma Howell, Ethel Stewart
<u>Bethesda:</u> Ray Flatt
<u>Mabry Assisted Living:</u> Edna Roberts

Who am I?
By Randy Duke

I often wonder how many people stop and take the time to ask themselves this question. If you look at the fast paced world that we live in, it would appear that not many take the time to ask themselves this. Or maybe they just don't really want to know the answer. How many people really want to be a murderer, drug addict, child molester, wife abuser, thief or a drunkard? The ultimate question is, who really wants to be spiritually lost?

One of the first questions anyone who is a Christian or is considering becoming one should ask themselves when considering who they are is, whose eyes am I looking at myself through? Am I looking through the eyes of man or the eyes of God? If we try to judge ourselves through the eyes of man we become like those whom Jesus spoke about in Matthew 13:14-15: "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says, "Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull, their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their heart and turn so that I should heal them."

Looking through human eyes we will seldom be productive as Christians. Remember what Moses said to God when looking through his own eyes in Exodus 3:11. "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Looking through his own eyes, he was blind to what God could do through him. What about Abraham and Sarah looking through their own eyes? They could not see or understand that God would give them a son as He had promised. (Gen. 18:10) Abraham and Sarah even laughed when promised this (Gen. 17:17, 18:12). Instead, they took it on their own to help God

out. So Sarai (Sarah) gave Abram (Abraham) her Egyptian maid servant whose name was Hagar (Gen. 16:12). Ishmael was the product of that union (Gen.16:15) and we have only to look at the Middle East today to see the consequences of their blindness, or lack of faith (Gen. 16:12). There are many other examples in the Bible of human failures when lack of faith blinded them of what God wanted for them. The children of Israel are one of the most obvious. They continually were denied God's blessings through their history because they became blind and hard-hearted to God's will.

So, how can we know what God expects of us and see ourselves through his eyes? First, we must know the truth, because God is revealed through His Word and His Word is the Truth (John 17:17). We must study His Word and rightly divide it (2 Tim. 2:15). How can we know and understand how God sees or looks at us if we don't? We might become like those mentioned in 2 Peter 3:16. We must receive His Word with meekness (James 1:5-6). We should meditate or take time to think about and reflect upon the things we have studied and learned in the Scriptures (Phil. 4:8).

Each and every time one of us should regularly take time out to stop and honestly look at ourselves and ask the question, who am I? Am I a worldly-minded person that is blinded and unfruitful as Jesus spoke of in Matt. 13:23? We should not look at ourselves through leaders of the blind (Matt. 15:13-14). We should examine as God examines us, and if we are found lacking, we must make ourselves acceptable in God's eyes.

Because Jesus said in Rev. 16:15, "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garment, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." Let us keep watch and remain unspotted so we can receive the blessings the Lord has prepared for us. Let us remember that where we spend eternity is our choice and eternity is exactly that, ETERNAL!!!!